

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Proposed Reorganization of VEB  
Askania

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1. VEB Askania still maintained control of the research and development departments and sections under the general administration of the plant itself at the end of 1952. This is not the normal situation in the over-all East German industrial complex [See Enclosure (A).]
2. The Department of Optics and Fine Mechanics under the Ministry of Machine Manufacture is now attempting, as are the other departments, to centralize the research and development in these two fields throughout East Germany. At the end of 1952, this had not been accomplished. The department of development and research from Zeiss has been resisting the move because of traditional leadership in the optics, field and the fact that Zeiss

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has virtually represented all research and development in optics. In the field of fine mechanical research there are several splinter groups. A strong development staff exists at Askania, and at other plants such as Gaselan in Berlin (presumably the former Pintsch A.G.), a Gunther Lange firm at Berlin, Adlershof, and a branch of the Seehydrographischer Dienst, now located some distance north of Berlin. There are of course many other splinter sections.

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3. [redacted] decision was reached to place the field of fine mechanical research and development under the Department of Fine Mechanics, Ministry of Machinery Manufacture, and to place optical research under Zeiss. [redacted]

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4. If the plan decided upon at the series of meetings held in Berlin in November-December of 1952 (and attended by RAMCKE, Dr. WILHELM, BRITALL, SCHULZE and chief administrative director CHEMNITZ) at the Machinery Ministry is actually put into effect, various changes would occur. All the development departments under RAMCKE (with the exception of the office of Improvements and Suggestions), and the Special Department for Aeronautical Instruments under Fritz MUELLER (with the exception of the production facilities) would be removed from Askania administration and control. It is very possible that these departments would also undergo a physical transfer. It was rumored that the physical transfer could be made to either Weissen-See or to Am Bahnhof Ost Kreuz, both places in Berlin.

Enclosure (A) - Organizational Plan of VEB

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